<u>Trend Study 17-24-02</u>

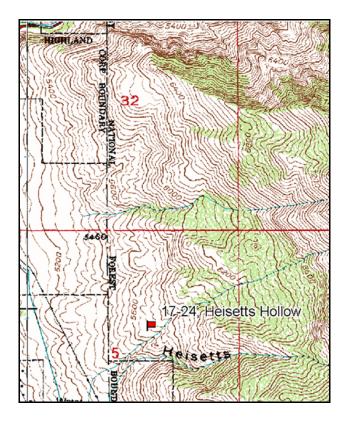
Study site name: <u>Heisetts Hollow</u>. Vegetation type: <u>Big Sagebrush-Grass</u>.

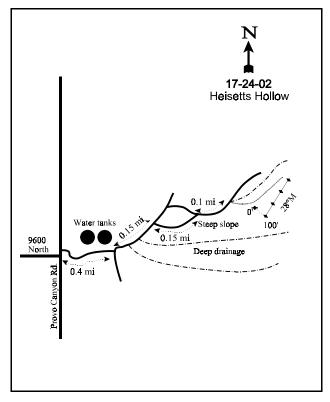
Compass bearing: frequency baseline <u>136</u> degrees magnetic (lines 2-4 @ 28°M).

Frequency belt placement: line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (59ft), line 3 (34ft), line 4 (71ft). Rebar: belt 1 on 18 ft., belt 3 on 2ft.

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

North of Pleasant Grove, turn east off Canyon Road (Rt 146) opposite 9600 North, and go 0.4 miles towards the water tank on the hill. From the southeast side of the concrete tank, go northerly 0.15 miles to a fork. Bear right up the steep, easternmost road, and continue 0.15 miles to the Forest Service boundary. Go 0.1 miles to a fork, continue east 0.1 miles up a steep slope to a small level area. A deer trail goes southeast. Follow the trail 65 paces to the 0-foot baseline stake.





Map Name: <u>Timpanogos Cave</u>

Township <u>5S</u>, Range <u>2E</u>, Section <u>5</u>

Diagrammatic Sketch

GPS: NAD 27, UTM 12S 4473918 N 437113 E

DISCUSSION

Heisetts Hollow - Trend Study No. 17-24

This study is located on the upper Lake Bonneville terrace near the mouth of Heisetts Hollow and uphill from the Salt Lake Aqueduct. This entire area is critical deer winter range. An old browse transect which samples the few Stansbury cliffrose plants is located in the immediate area. Slope varies from about 5% at the 0 foot baseline stake to nearly 22% at the end of the baseline. Aspect is southwest and elevation is 5,600 feet. The range type is sparse mountain big sagebrush interspersed with isolated oak clumps and large cliffrose plants. A moderately dense and vigorous perennial grass cover occupies the shrub interspaces. Quadrat frequency of deer pellet groups was moderately high in 1997 and 2002 at 43% and 46% respectively. A pellet group transect read on site in 2002 estimated 65 deer and 3 elk days use/acre (160 ddu/acre and 8 edu/ha). All of the deer pellet groups appeared to be from winter use.

Soil is a clay loam containing a moderate amount of rock in the profile. Texture is gravelly to sandy and typical of sedimentary lake deposits. Effective rooting depth is estimated at 24 inches, some of which is an unconsolidated "C" horizon. Phosphorous is low at only 5.7 ppm. Values less than 10 ppm may limit normal plant growth and development. The steeper slopes show signs of erosion problems in the past, leaving behind some steep terraces as well as some pedestalling of the plants. Some soil movement is evident on a foot trail located directly north of the site. There did not appear to be any significant erosion occurring on site in 1997 or 2002, and the erosion condition class was determined to be stable in 2002.

The key browse species is a sparse population of mountain big sagebrush. The greatly increased sample size used in 1997 estimated density at 1,120 plants/acre, a slight increase from the 866 plants/acre estimated in 1983 and 1989. Utilization was moderate to heavy. The number of heavily hedged plants declined in 1997 and vigor improved. Decadency also declined to 23% in 1997. Density was estimated at 920 plants/acre in 2002. Use was very heavy, similar to 1989 levels, and the number of decadent plants nearly doubled to 41% of the population. Half of the decadent plants were classified as dying in 2002. Young recruitment is marginal with young plants accounting for only 7% of the population. Annual leader growth on sagebrush averaged 1.9 inches in 2002.

Other preferred browse occur in small numbers and include true mountain mahogany, white rubber rabbitbrush, and cliffrose. The few cliffrose on the site are tall and mostly unavailable to browsing. They do not appear to be reproducing. One disturbing aspect of the browse composition was the high density of broom snakeweed in 1997 which was estimated at 10,300 plants/acre, an increase from 1,433 plants/acre in 1989. The number of seedlings encountered in 1997 was also high, but due to drought the population declined to only 120 plants/acre in 2002.

Perennial grasses are the dominant herbaceous understory component. With the exclusion of livestock grazing, bluebunch wheatgrass is becoming vigorous and abundant. It comprises a uniform but somewhat open cover that helps stabilize soil. Bulbous bluegrass is also abundant and accounted for 43% of the grass cover in 1997 and 55% in 2002. Cheatgrass is present but not very abundant.

The forb component is subject to grass competition. As a result, forbs are diverse but occur infrequently. The more common species include northern sweetvetch, longleaf phlox, ragweed, and scarlet globemallow. Little vegetative cover or forage is provided by forbs.

1983 APPARENT TREND ASSESSMENT

Soil at the site appears stable on a highly erodible and fragile site. Past erosion has been severe but is slowly being stabilized by an aggressive and increasing perennial grass cover. Browse for big game habitat purposes appears to be in a state of decline. All the available evidence points to a rapidly decreasing population of mountain big sagebrush, the key browse species. Other desirable browse species occur in small numbers. Broom snakeweed is abundant and appears to be increasing.

1989 TREND ASSESSMENT

This section of the hill is subject to slumping, and recent cracking and soil movement has occurred. It appears the site will slide down into the large gully below. Adjacent slopes are subject to severe gullying. The site has adequate grass cover, however litter cover has decreased. Some of the decrease in litter cover is probably due to classifying cured bulbous bluegrass as litter in 1989. Pavement cover increased from 7 to 20%. The 12.5% cover of bare soil exposed is similar between years. The soil trend is stable. Density of the key browse species, mountain big sagebrush, is stable. Use is heavy and the number of decadent plants increased. The 1989 data demonstrate that the increaser subshrub broom snakeweed is not a good indicator of trend. Although it was apparently rapidly expanding in 1983, the snakeweed now has a largely decadent population. The short oakbrush on the site is heavily hedged and has expanded slightly. No changes are apparent in the heavily browsed cliffrose population and the infrequent shrubs were not adequately sampled. Trend for browse is considered stable. Perennial grasses still predominate in the understory. Trend for the herbaceous understory is up slightly. There appears to have been a problem differentiating Sandberg bluegrass and bulbous bluegrass. Sum of nested frequency of perennial grasses and forbs increased.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - stable (3) browse - stable (3) herbaceous understory - up slightly (4)

1997 TREND ASSESSMENT

The soil trend is stable. Some past erosion has occurred as well as plant pedestalling. Current erosion does not appear to be accelerated and not more than would be suspected. The adjacent foot trail shows sign of erosion which could adversely effect the site. The mountain big sagebrush population is moderate to heavily hedged, but the percentage of the population with heavily hedged plants has declined since 1989. Seedling and young plants are sparse with 70% of the plants encountered classified as mature. The broom snakeweed population has exploded to over 10,000 plants/acre estimated in 1997. The browse trend is up slightly for the key browse species, mountain big sagebrush. Nested frequency for bluebunch wheatgrass continues to increase with only a sparse cover of cheatgrass. Bulbous bluegrass also has a high cover value with a very short growth form. Forbs are insignificant on the site at this time. It appears that much of the bulbous bluegrass was classified as Sandberg bluegrass in 1989. Herbaceous trend is up slightly.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable (3)<u>browse</u> - up slightly (4)<u>herbaceous understory</u> - up slightly (4)

2002 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil is down slightly. Cover of bare ground nearly doubled from 7.5% cover to 14.7%. Litter and vegetation cover also declined. There is still adequate protective ground cover to prevent most erosion. Trend for the key browse species, mountain big sagebrush, is down slightly. Density is similar to 1997, but use is heavier and the number of decadent plants has increased. In addition, 53% of the decadent plants sampled were classified as dying. Recruitment is marginal with 7% of the population consisting of young plants. Sagebrush is definitely feeling the effects of drought. Drought conditions have also caused a dramatic decline in the broom snakeweed population. The very high density of 10,300 plants/acre estimated in 1997 has declined to only 120 plants/acre in 2002. Trend for the herbaceous understory is stable. The composition of the herbaceous understory has changed slightly, but the sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses remained similar to 1997. Nested frequency of bluebunch wheatgrass declined, while the frequency of the poor value perennial, bulbous bluegrass, remained stable. Sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs declined slightly.

TREND ASSESSMENT
soil - down slightly (2)
browse - down slightly (2)
herbaceous understory - stable (3)

HERBACEOUS TRENDS --

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

T Species y p	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ	Average Cover %			
e	'83	'89	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02	'97	'02
G Agropyron cristatum	_b 9	_b 7	a ⁻	a ⁻	5	5	-	ı	-	-
G Agropyron dasystachyum	_b 86	_a 8	a ⁻	_a 2	33	4	-	1	-	.00
G Agropyron spicatum	_a 196	_a 237	_c 289	_b 254	76	82	85	85	20.39	13.22
G Bromus tectorum (a)	-	-	_b 133	_a 39	-	-	49	14	1.51	.19
G Poa bulbosa	_b 284	_a 120	_c 307	_c 303	89	59	89	88	16.68	19.25
G Poa pratensis	a ⁻	a-	a ⁻	_b 42	-	-	1	16	-	.59
G Poa secunda	a-	_c 299	_b 28	_b 32	-	95	14	13	.17	1.48
Total for Annual Grasses	0	0	133	39	0	0	49	14	1.51	0.19
Total for Perennial Grasses	575	671	624	633	203	245	188	203	37.25	34.56
Total for Grasses	575	671	757	672	203	245	237	217	38.76	34.76
F Alyssum alyssoides (a)	-	-	_b 128	_a 87	-	-	49	32	.49	.18
F Allium spp.	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	ı	.00	-
F Ambrosia psilostachya	a-	_c 52	_b 35	_a 4	-	27	15	3	.18	.06
F Artemisia ludoviciana	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	I	-	-
F Arabis perennans	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	ı	.03	-
F Astragalus spp.	-	2	-	17	-	1	1	10	-	.35
F Astragalus utahensis	-	-	3	6	-	-	1	3	.15	.06
F Castilleja chromosa	7	1	2	5	3	1	1	3	.00	.04
F Calochortus nuttallii	7	1	-	4	4	1	-	2	-	.01
F Cirsium undulatum	a-	_a 2	_b 11	_b 12	-	1	8	7	.19	.09
F Comandra pallida	4	8	3	-	2	3	3	-	.01	-

T y p	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	nt Frequ	Average Cover %			
e		'83	'89	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02	'97	'02
F	Crepis acuminata	-	-	5	7	-	-	2	3	.01	.04
F	Descurainia pinnata (a)	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	2	-	.01
F	Erodium cicutarium (a)	-	-	44	55	-	-	19	22	.26	1.37
F	Helianthus annuus (a)	a-	ь17	a_	_b 14	-	7	-	7	-	.03
F	Hedysarum boreale	_{ab} 12	_{ab} 11	_b 26	_a 4	6	5	11	3	.71	.16
F	Lappula occidentalis (a)	-	-	a-	_b 23	-	1	1	10	-	.05
F	Lactuca serriola	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	2	.00	.01
F	Lithospermum ruderale	-	3	3	-	-	2	2	1	.01	-
F	Lygodesmia spp.	a-	a ⁻	a-	_b 13	-	1	1	5	-	.12
F	Oenothera spp.	2	-	5	1	1	-	3	1	.33	.00
F	Orobanche spp.	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
F	Phlox longifolia	_a 3	_{ab} 6	_c 28	_{bc} 21	1	4	12	11	.08	.08
F	Sedum lanceolatum	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	.00
F	Sphaeralcea coccinea	8	7	6	13	4	2	2	7	.03	.03
F	Tragopogon dubius	_{ab} 2	a ⁻	_c 31	_b 7	2	1	14	5	.24	.10
F	Unknown forb-perennial	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Т	otal for Annual Forbs	0	17	172	184	0	7	68	73	0.76	1.64
T	otal for Perennial Forbs	53	98	164	120	26	49	77	66	2.00	1.19
	otal for Forbs	53	115	336	304	26	56	145	139	2.76	2.84

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at alpha = 0.10

BROWSE TRENDS ---

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

T y p	Species	Strip Freque	ncy	Average Cover %	
e		'97	'02	'97	'02
В	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	35	32	8.28	6.99
В	Atriplex confertifolia	1	1	.03	.15
В	Cercocarpus montanus	1	1	.15	.41
В	Chrysothamnus nauseosus albicaulis	4	2	.15	.03
В	Cowania mexicana stansburiana	0	0	1	.15
В	Gutierrezia sarothrae	72	6	3.59	.01
To	otal for Browse	113	42	12.21	7.75

631

CANOPY COVER --

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

Species	Percen Cover	t
	'97	'02
Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	-	2

Key Browse Annual Leader Growth

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

Species	Average leader growth (in)
	'02
Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	1.9

BASIC COVER --

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

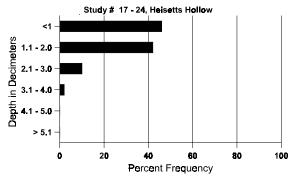
Cover Type	Nested Frequen	cy	Average Cover %						
	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02			
Vegetation	381	367	7.00	22.25	53.82	49.99			
Rock	172	211	3.00	4.50	4.96	7.68			
Pavement	245	260	6.75	19.75	6.84	8.94			
Litter	388	373	72.50	41.00	39.14	31.17			
Cryptogams	43	18	.25	0	.59	.22			
Bare Ground	190	224	10.50	12.50	7.46	14.68			

SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 17, Study no: 24, Heisetts Hollow

Effective rooting depth (in)	Temp °F (depth)	рН	%sand	%silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	РРМ К	dS/m
24.3	49.6 (17.7)	7.1	32.0	35.4	32.6	3.8	5.7	105.6	.6

Stoniness Index



PELLET GROUP FREQUENCY --Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

Herd unit 17, St	tudy no: 24						
Туре	Quadrat Frequency						
	'97	'02					
Rabbit	1	3					
Bighorn Sheep	-	1					
Elk	1	1					
Deer	43	46					
Horse	-	-					

Pellet T	ransect
Pellet Groups	Days Use
per Acre	per Acre (ha)
0 2	© 2
-	-
-	-
44	3 (8)
844	65 (160)
9	N/A

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS --

Herd unit 17, Study no: 24

AY	—	form Cl			Dlonta	`					Vigor C	loca			Plants	Average		Total
G R	Г	orin Ci	ass (1)	0. 01 1	riams)					v igoi C	1888			Per Acre	(inches)		Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	1	rei Acie			
Е		1		3	4	3	O	/	0	9	1		3	4		Ht. Cr.		
Ame	land	chier al	nifolia	ı														
M 83		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	33	30	35	1
89		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	28	31	1
97		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
02		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
% Pla	ants	s Show	ing	Mo	derate	Use	Неа	avy U	<u>se</u>	Po	or Vigo	<u>r</u>		(%Change			
		'83		00%	6		100				100%				-	+ 0%		
		'89		00%	6		100)%		10	00%							
		'97		00%	6		00%	6		00)%							
		'02		00%	6		00%	6		00)%							
T . 1	DI	. / .	,	1 1'	ъ	100	11.	,					102		22	Ъ		
Total	Pla	ants/Ac	re (ex	cludin	g Dea	a & Se	eeaiin	gs)					'83		33	Dec:		-
													'89		33			-
													'97		0			-
													'02		0			-

A	Y R	Form Cl	ass (1	No. of l	Plants)					Vigor Cl	lass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total	
E		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	rei Acie	Ht. Cr.	,		
Α	rtem	isia tride	ntata	vaseya	na														
S	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0	
	89 97	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	0 60			0	
	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	0			0	
Y	83	-	-	1	_	-	_	-	-	-	1	_	-	_	33			1	
	89	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	33			1	
	97 02	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 3	-	-	-	80 60			4 3	
Μ	 	_	8	12	-	_	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	5	666	22	28	20	
	89	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	433	24	29	13	
	97 02	-	23 2	15 21	1	- 1	-	-	-	-	39 23	-	1	-	780 480	25 22	47 35	39 24	
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	89	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	1	400			12	
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	97 02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240 300			12 15	
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		'83	0	35%	6		54%	6		359	%	•		+ 0%					
1																			
		'89 '97		15% 54%			85% 30%			049						+23%			
		'89 '97 '02		15% 54% 11%	6		85% 30% 85%	6		04° 13° 24°	%					+23% -18%			
	otal l	'97 '02	re (es	54% 11%	⁄o ⁄o	d & S	30% 85%	/o /o		139	%		'83	ł.	-	-18%		19%	
T	otal l	'97	re (ex	54% 11%	⁄o ⁄o	.d & S6	30% 85%	/o /o		139	%		'83 '89)	865 866		:	19% 46%	
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		'97 '02 Plants/Ac		54% 11% ccludin	⁄o ⁄o	d & S6	30% 85%	/o /o		139	%		'89) 7	865 866	-18%	:	46%	
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A	Y R	Form Cla	ass (N	lo. of I	Plants))					Vigor C	Class			Plants	Average	Total
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Total Plants/Acre (excluding Dead & Seedlings) 183																		
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89		rezia sarc	othrae												<u> </u>	ī		
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02		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_			0
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UTotal Plants/Acre (excluding Dead & Seedlings) 92 1222 Dec																_		
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	Y R	Form Class (No. of Plants)										Vigor Class					Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E		1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	rei Acie	Ht. Cr.		
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	97	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	0			0
	02	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	0			0
M	83	-		1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		2	-	1	-	100	33	35	3
	89	-		-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-		5	-	-	-	166	59	33	5
	97	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	0	52	43	0
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%	Plar	nts Sho	wing	g	Mod	derate	Use	Неа	ıvy Us	se	Po	oor Vigor %Change								
	· — — — — — —								0% +64%											
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Total Plants/Acre (excluding Dead & Seedlings) '83 133 Dec:																				
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